

WHAT THEY SAY: *CONTINUING COMPETENCE*

"Currently no state medical board requires physicians to demonstrate their continuing competence to practice, and efforts to strengthen the requirements for relicensing physicians have been successfully opposed by professional organizations. As a result, many physicians continue for decades to practice medicine with little change from what they learned in medical school and hospital residency. States are stricter in testing the skills of motor vehicle drivers."

--Thomas H. Meikle Jr., MD, President, Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, "States Must Act to Reform Medical Education," *The Journal of American Health Policy*, March/April 1992, Vol. 2, No. 2

"The issue of continuing competency assessment is gaining political force. . . . Boards, as the bodies responsible for licensing physicians, are increasingly going to have to respond to this concern. Or others will!"

--Mark R. Yessian, PhD, "How Can State Medical Boards Compete in the Quality Assurance Marketplace?," *Federation Bulletin*, Federation of State Medical Boards, Vol. 81, No. 2, 1994

"States should require each board to develop, implement and evaluate continuing competency requirements to assure the continuing competence of regulated health care professionals. . . . The evidence that continuing education cannot guarantee continuing competence is sobering."

--*Reforming Health Care Workforce Regulation: Policy Considerations for the 21st Century*, December 1995, Pew Health Professions Commission

"What is the role of boards in ensuring continuing professional competence? Should boards regulate continuing education providers, or should this be the function of educational organizations and oversight bodies?"

--Kathleen Hamilton, Director, California Department of Consumer Affairs, speaking at Citizen Advocacy Center annual meeting, San Francisco, November 13, 2002

"It was more than 30 years ago, in the pages of the *Federation Bulletin*, that Robert C. Derbyshire, MD, wrote ' . . . whenever the subject of recertification or re-examination was brought up in almost any medical gathering it was greeted by an uncomfortable silence or open hostility.' I regret to say that during the past three decades the prevailing attitude in the profession toward a physician having to prove his continuing competency has changed little."

--Ronald C. Agresta, MD, FSMB President, "Maintenance of Competency: An Old Emerging Issue," *Journal of Medical Licensure and Discipline*, Federation of State Medical Boards, Vol. 89, No.1, 2003

"It's hard to say when the board will feel that they have gathered enough information and are ready to move ahead. . . . There always is something new that we need to learn about and consider before making a proposal."

--Neal Kohatsu, MD, Medical Director, Medical Board of California, "Maintenance of Competence: The Debate Heats Up," *Journal of Medical Licensure and Discipline*, Federation of State Medical Boards, Vol. 89, No. 1, 2003

"As the public demands greater physician accountability, a group of leading medical societies believes the first step begins with reforming continuing medical education. . . . Participating groups included the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the National Board of Medical Examiners and the Federation."

--Federation of State Medical Boards, *Newsline*, March/April 2003

"A quality approval label issued by licensing states, Medicare, Medicaid, or private payers, especially if linked to licensure and reimbursement, will negatively affect board certification. . . . For these reasons boards must move more rapidly If boards do not have their maintenance of certification programs in place soon, other organizations will fill the void, and our opportunity for self-regulation will be lost. . . . We have a shrinking window of opportunity. . . . To delay much longer is to lose it."

--"Move Faster, or Lose," President's Column, the *ABMS Record*, the American Board of Medical Specialties, Winter 2003